



## **What is polytrauma?**

Polytrauma occurs when your pet sustains injuries from being hit by something. Common situations where this is encountered include being hit by a car or falling from a height, such as a balcony several floors up.

## **What should I do if my animal is hurt in this way?**

Get your pet to a veterinarian as soon as possible, ideally one with emergency capabilities in case the internal injuries are more severe than expected. But you should make efforts to stay safe as well. Many animals will bite or react unexpectedly when in pain. Wrapping them in a towel or blanket, and using helpers to get the animal to a car so that you can get them to the hospital can be helpful. If you do not think your pet is hurt enough to warrant an emergency room visit, it is still a very good idea to have your pet see a veterinarian as soon as possible to look for less apparent injuries, as well as to get medication advice. Do not give your pet over the counter pain medications as many of these medications can be harmful to pets.

## **What will happen when I arrive at the veterinary emergency hospital?**

Most likely the patient will be assessed any for life-threatening injuries, and oxygen support, pain medications, and fluids will be given immediately.

## **What types of injuries might my animal have?**

The most important injuries that doctors will assess are life-threatening internal injuries. These include, but are not limited to:

- Ruptured lung lobes
- Bleeding in to the chest
- Bleeding in to the abdomen
- A ruptured bladder
- A diaphragmatic hernia
- Bruising to the lungs

## **What can I expect in the first day or two of treatment of my pet?**

Initial treatment and diagnostics will focus on the above life-threatening injuries that might not be apparent on the surface after your pet has been injured. After these injuries have been stabilized, serious but not life-threatening injuries such as fractures and abrasions will be managed.

## **Will my pet live?**

While there is no way to predict if your pet will live and many of these injuries can be life-threatening, taking your pet to an emergency hospital, especially one with critical care specialists, will ensure that your pet is given the best treatment possible.